

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final Rejection is responsive to the Office Action identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. An appropriate claim has been added in order to submit a claim having alternatively worded features/limitations. Such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment, and are simply cancellation of disputed claims (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible. The disputed claims may be pursued within a continuing application. At entry of this paper, Claims 3-27 and 29-32 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 4, 5-14, 15/3-14, 16/3-14, 17/1-14, 18/3-14, 19/3-14, 22/1-14, 23/22/1-14, 24/3-14, 25/3-14, 26/3-14 and 27/3-14 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the section number "5" on page 4 of the Office Action, and ones of such claims have been so rewritten with the following variations. The Office Action indicated that Claim 9/2/1 was allowable, but was instead rewritten an independent Claim 9/1; Claim 10/3/2/1 was instead rewritten as independent Claim 10/2/1; Claim 12/2/1 was instead rewritten as independent Claim 12/1; and Claim 13/3/2/1 was instead rewritten as independent Claim 13/2/1. Added

Claim 29 is equivalent to allowable Claim 17/1, and added Claim 31 is equivalent to allowable Claim 22/1, thus making Claims 29, 30 (dependent from Claim 29), 31 and 32 (dependent from Claim 31) allowable. As a result of the foregoing, Claims 3-27 and 29-32 appear allowable, and renewal of the allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §103

The 35 USC §103 rejection of ones of the prior claims as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Inamori *et al.* (US 5,751,278 A) is respectfully traversed. Such rejections have been rendered obsolete by the present clarifying amendments to Applicant's claims, and accordingly, traversal arguments are not appropriate at this time. Further, Applicant respectfully submits the following to preclude renewal of any such rejections against Applicant's clarified claims.

All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated herein by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the subject claims under §103 are respectfully requested. The above statements, or the amendment and/or

cancellation of any claim, should not be taken as an indication or admission that such rejections were valid, but is merely use of a procedural approach to obviate the rejections and expedite allowance of the application.

As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art would not support a §103 obviousness-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such §103 rejection, and express written allowance of all of the §103 rejected claims, are respectfully requested.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendments or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

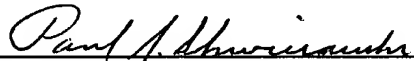
A Petition for an appropriate extension of the shortened statutory period for response set by the final Office Action mailed 26 January 2004 is submitted concurrently herewith. To whatever other extent is actually necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.1 36. Also submitted concurrently herewith is a Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment of the requisite

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Petition fee; no additional claim fee is necessary. Please charge any actual shortage
in fees due to ATSK Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No.
503.40146X00).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:
Petition for Extension of Time
Form PTO-2038 (Fee Code 1252)